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SOURCE Cooperativen Front, No 51, 1949.

#### LABOR COOPERATIVES TO ACCEPT APPRENTICES UNDER 18

According to Article 19 of the new cooperative law, young people under 18 can be admitted in labor cooperatives as assistants, apprentices, and helpers. However, the present cooperatives differ essentially from the old-type capitalist enterprises exploiting child labor, because the present labor cooperatives grant their young apprentices the same advantages that are enjoyed by adult members. After reaching their 18th birthday, the apprentices, if they so wish, become full-fledged members of the cooperative; if, however, they do not decide to join or for some reason do not qualify for admission, they are dismissed.

The admission fee for members is subject to Paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the Labor Cooperative Law, ruling that apprentices are received on the same conditions as adult members, however, without paying the 500 leva required for admission or signing the pledge for the payment of a capital share. Furthermore, the admission is subject to approval of the general assembly, and final action must be taken within 2 months after an application has been filed.

During their apprenticeship, workers are paid the same rate as adult members -- an established percentage of the net profit -- but half the sum is retained to be put into shares. Upon reaching his majority, the apprentice comes into possession of his share and signs the required pledge, should he wish to become a member. If he does not desire to become a member or cannot be admitted, his capital share is returned within 6 months after his separation from the cooperative.

The young apprentices are forming a well-trained contingent of future cooperative workers.

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- 1 -

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